

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS ENCOURAGE PREPAREDNESS FOR MOTORISTS, *Offer Safety Tips in Wake of Reduced Patrols*

MONTGOMERY — State budget cuts have reduced state trooper patrols statewide, and the Department of Public Safety is encouraging all motorists to take extra precautions when traveling Alabama's roadways.

Among budget-cutting measures, Public Safety has instituted a four-day workweek for state troopers and ordered mileage restrictions in response to its reduced General Fund appropriation, according to Col. Mike Coppage, agency director.

"The reduced trooper presence may mean longer response time to crashes and other traffic emergencies," said Coppage. He encouraged drivers to be prepared in the event of a traffic emergency and offered the following tips to assist motorists:

- Make sure your vehicle is in good operating condition, including tires, brakes, lights and windshield wipers.
- On longer trips let a family member or friend know your route and anticipated time of arrival.
- Have cell phones charged and available when traveling. *47 is a toll-free number available to many cell phone users that will connect the caller to the nearest state trooper post.
- In the absence of a cell phone, have pen and note paper handy to leave a message on your vehicle or to offer information/phone contacts to passers-by who may offer assistance. Have change on hand for pay phones.
- Have flashlights, other emergency lighting and a first-aid kit in your vehicle.
- Check fuel levels and refuel regularly.
- Keep blankets in the vehicle during cold-weather months.

Coppage said troopers will make every effort to respond as quickly as possible to traffic emergencies, although he cautioned motorists to expect delays in service and response.

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for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>